

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Note: This was not a Public Meeting

Location: Apache Gold Resort and Casino, San Carlos Indian Reservation
Time: AZ Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on January 25; 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on January 26; and 7:00 am to 11:00 am on January 27
Host: Arizona Game and Fish Department and San Carlos Apache Tribe
Participants: Closed (non-public meeting) for the following agencies: AMOC Lead Agencies (AGFD, NMDGF, USDA-APHIS WS, USDA FS, USDI FWS, and WMAT); AMOC Signatory Cooperators (Greenlee, Sierra, and Navajo counties, and NM Department of Agriculture); and other state, tribal, and/or federal government agencies that wish to participate.

AGENDA

January 25-27

1. Welcome, introductions, and ground rules

Present January 25 – Dan Groebner, Santiago Gonzales, John Morgart, John Oakleaf, Steve Titla, Bud Starnes, Anna Tryfonas, James Ashburner, Chris Carrillo, Cynthia Dale, Lisa Kirkpatrick, Bobbie Barrera, Bill Van Pelt, Shawna Nelson, and Terry Johnson.

2. Agenda review/additional agenda items

Terry Johnson convened the meeting at 1 pm on January 25. He welcomed the attendees and asked for self-introductions. He outlined the meeting ground rules, and reviewed the agenda for addition or deletion of items; none were added or deleted, but items for the SCAT were deferred to Saturday January 27.

3. Summary Notes from previous AMOC/AMWG meetings

The format for Summary Notes was discussed. There were no copies available for this meeting. Posting of Summary Notes on the website is up-to-date, with the exception of one or two. Shawna was asked to draft Summary notes for this meeting within 2 weeks of the meeting.

Action Item: AMOC -- rigorous review of all AMOC Summary Notes, with a comment due date of 2 weeks from today.

4. Update on status of changes in AMOC representatives

Members gave updates on the status of changes in AMOC representatives from the various agencies. Continuity is a problem with personnel changes. Representatives and surrogates need to brief each other better, and be prepared for all discussions. Better briefing needs to occur when a representative is replaced by another during a meeting, as well as from one meeting to another. The U.S. Forest Service representation question has been resolved: Cathy Taylor is the representative and Bobbie Barrera is the surrogate. NMDGF – Lisa Kirkpatrick is acting as the

representative but will probable retire in June. She hopes to have Chuck Hayes' replacement in place by the April AMOC meeting. Terry reminded all that it will be important to have fully functioning representatives and surrogates from the agencies involved for the upcoming scoping meetings.

5. Miscellaneous

a. Progress on Catron County removal of posted wolf location information

Progress on the removal of wolf location information on the Catron County website was discussed. Two months of the information is still on the web site, after County assurance that it would be removed. Catron County representatives are aware of the issue and agree that the web site is not an appropriate forum for this information.

Action Item: John Morgart will check the web site on Monday, January 29. If the information is still posted, he will again request that Catron County remove it.

b. Progress on AGFD sending copies of the original MOU and its signature pages to all AMOC representatives

Bill Van Pelt said he has not been able to locate the original MOU and the signature pages for all AMOC member agencies. He has only been able to find the Sierra County, New Mexico, signature page. He will keep looking. **Action Item:** Bill Van Pelt will disseminate the signed MOU again before the April AMOC meeting.

c. Update on IFT letterhead, shirts, and any other logo issues

A tri-color logo was approved for use. The letterhead should be available within the coming week.

Action Item: Bill Van Pelt will get shirt sizes for the Directors and AMOC representatives by February 1, and have letterhead and shirts produced by the April AMOC meeting.

d. Progress on arrangements for December 11-13 AMOC-IFT-Directors meeting

The December 11-13 AMOC-IFT-Directors meeting will be at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. A block of rooms will be reserved on the refuge for those who wish to stay. John Morgart will need a response from attendees on whether or not they will need a room.

Action Item: each AMOC member will let John Morgart know by April 30 how many individuals from their agency will need a room at the Refuge.

- e. Progress on arrangements for August 28-30 AMOC-IFT-Directors meeting

The August 28-30 AMOC-IFT-Directors meeting will be at Tal-Wi-Wi Lodge, north of Alpine, Arizona, has been locked in for the entire meeting.

Action Item: at the April AMOC meeting, each member will need to identify how many individuals from their agency will be attending and need lodging at Tal-Wi-Wi. AMOC will also decide at the April meeting which day(s) the Directors will attend, so they can be notified of the date.

- f. Update on Key Contact Information (SOP 0.C)

Terry asked for more help in keeping SOP 0.C (Key Contact Information) current. He needs to be notified by each agency representative of all personnel changes, as soon as they are known. He proposed stopping hard copy and email dissemination of SOP O.C, in favor of posting it on the web site. AMOC members agreed, but the IFT will continue to make hard copies to provide to individuals with whom they interact (e.g. permittees).

- g. Update on whether any USFS decisions regarding predator control or helicopter use in Wilderness Areas might require changes in SOP 15.0 (Helicopter Capture and Aerial Gunning)

Bobbie Barrera advised that USFS decisions regarding predator control or helicopter use in Wilderness Areas might require changes to SOP 15.0 (Helicopter Capture and Aerial Gunning).

Action Item: USFS will monitor this issue, and keep AMOC posted as to what if any action is needed.

- h. Update on IFT draft of recommended changes in SOP 21.0 Handling, Immobilizing, and Processing Live Mexican Wolves

The IFT has not completed draft revision of SOP 21.0. They are pondering whether it might be best to combine 21.0 and 24.0. Terry advised them that their responsibility is to bring forth a recommendation, and appropriate draft(s).

Action Item: the IFT will make a recommendation to AMOC by February 27 on SOP 21 and SOP 24, and provide appropriate draft text at that time.

- i. Initial discussion of whether experience to date suggests a possible need for changes in SOP 13.0 in 2007 or beyond

Terry posed a question as to whether experience to date suggests a need for changes in SOP 13.0. This was discussed in December at the Directors Summit, and the Directors affirmed a desire to leave 13.0 intact for 2007. However, AMOC was asked to discuss issues as they arise, and be prepared to recommend changes if appropriate to do so.

Action Item: AMOC will re-discuss SOP 13.0 at the April meeting.

- j. Approval of revised SOP 9.0: Road-kill salvage

Terry disseminated the final revision of SOP 9.0 Road-Kill Salvage. AMOC has approved all the substantive changes. Terry still needs a list of Game Management Units in New Mexico where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been confirmed before he can post the final version.

Action Item: Lisa Kirkpatrick will get the CWD information to Terry Johnson by the end of the day, and Terry will get the final SOP to Bruce Sitko by February 1 for posting on the web site.

- k. Approval of revised SOP 24.0: Mexican Wolf Transport

Terry disseminated the final SOP 24.0 Mexican Wolf Transport, and noted that contact information for wolf management facilities is still needed.

Action Item: John Morgart will provide the facilities information information to Terry Johnson.

- l. Approval of revised SOP 25.0: Media production access to the field project

Terry noted that this SOP has been backburnered while higher priorities are addressed, but it needs to be resolved now. A number of issues were then discussed. AMOC reaffirmed that media will not be allowed on trap lines or control actions, but the Project will provide stock footage of trapping for media dissemination as needed. This footage will be reviewed and agreed upon by all cooperators before it is disseminated. Terry also noted a need for more photos of individuals performing activities within the Project, and better wolf photos that are available to all Project staff, including AMOC. Ditto for PowerPoint presentations about the Project. Problems with the BBC filming were

discussed and it was decided that AGFD, NMDGF, USFWS, and USFS need to coordinate these types of activities with direct discussion and not via email.

Action Item: (a) John Morgart will send his final comments on SOP 25.0 to Terry by February 27. (b) The IFT will work with AGFD audiovisual staff to develop stock footage of trapping for media dissemination as needed. This footage will be reviewed and agreed upon by all cooperators before it is disseminated. (c) Shawna Nelson will get copies of photos from all Project staff (including WMAT) and other sources within the AMOC agencies and make these and other photos available to all. (d) All Project staff will provide copies of their PowerPoint presentations to Shawna for archiving at the Alpine office and availability to all cooperators. (e) AGFD, NMDGF, USFWS, and USFS need to coordinate media access issues (e.g. BBC) through direct discussion and not via email.

m. Final discussion and approval of revised draft SOP 26.0: MW Location Dissemination Guidelines

Issues pertaining to revised draft for SOP 26.0 (Mexican Wolf Location Dissemination Guidelines) were discussed. Does AMOC need to clarify what Level 1 is supposed to address? A statement of purpose for Level 1 might resolve this. It was also suggested that Level 2 be changed to Level 3 and a new Level 2 be drafted. This would include contact for management actions that are occurring in the area to advise permittees that the IFT is in the area. Perhaps management actions should be defined in the Statement of Purpose for SOP 13.0. From a law enforcement perspective, we must ensure an accurate and complete documentation of the recipients of this information. Flight information must be disseminated to affected ranchers in timely fashion; there should not be a lag in the information getting out. Various alternatives were suggested, such as phone trees, dedicated phone lines, and web site information dissemination. The level of contact information dissemination that is expected is a drain on the IFT. Perhaps individuals should be advised only on where problem wolves are, not all wolves. The emphasis should be on problem wolves and/or potential adverse situations. If any changes occur on how the location information will be provided to the affected individuals, these individuals should be advised of the changes so they will not be caught off guard.

Action Item: Hector Ruedas and Bud Starnes will streamline the draft SOP tonight for closure discussion tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:30 PM.

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January 26, 2007 – 8:00am

Same attendees as yesterday, plus Sara Rinkevich for a portion of the morning.

Discussion on the draft of SOP 26.0 resumed. Hector Ruedas and Bud Starnes reported on the changes that they had made.

In the first paragraph, the phrase "Residents to consider that wolves are present anywhere, anytime within the BRWRA" was added. For Level 1, individuals involved in an incident would not have to request information - the information would be automatically and immediately supplied. For Level 2, the information will be available on the website within 48-hours of the flight. If computer access is unavailable the individual will be directed to call 1-888-459-9653. General wolf location information will be posted on the web site. The IFT will be responsible for this. Reasons for termination or timeliness of the supply of the information will include law enforcement issues, proprietary tribal information, weather, etc., will be included. A purpose statement for the SOP as well as a statement addressing release of tribal information is still needed.

Action Item: Terry Johnson will write a statement of purpose, and incorporate today's discussion into a final revision of the SOP.

- n. Final discussion of draft Annual Work Plan (including integrated Outreach appendix and initial release and translocation recommendations)

The draft Annual Work Plan (including Outreach) needs further attention. **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION.**

Action Item: (a) John Morgart, John Oakleaf, Anna Tryfonas, and Dewey Wesley will meet to discuss a protocol on how best to provide coverage. (b) John Oakleaf and Shawna Nelson will revise the Work Plan. (c) Shawna Nelson will follow-up on Outreach information and presentations from Krista Beazley. (d) **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION.**

- 6. **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**

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- 7. **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**

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8. Discussion of concerns regarding wolves as threats to human health and safety

The next agenda item was a discussion of concerns regarding wolves as threats to human health and safety. The *Range Magazine* article on Kenton Joel Carnegie's death was discussed. The article contains misinformation, but AMOC will not address the article or the incident until the incident is resolved in Canadian Court, probably at the end of February.

Action Item: Terry Johnson will obtain copies of the Range magazine article for AMOC members and surrogates.

A plan of action for disseminating reasonable information on these issues through the mass media is needed. Outreach activities should focus on accurate information that does not understate what wolves actually do. The agency PIOs have stated an interest in working together for the good of the Project, and AMOC needs to make that happen.

Action Item: Project PIOs will be asked to meet and start developing a more cohesive approach to positive outreach.

Chris Carrillo provided information from the Glenwood (New Mexico) Task Force meeting held earlier in the month concerning the increasing number of wolf-human encounters. The Task Force requested that USDA-WS align with them in their Mission Statement "to protect human health and safety." They also request that individuals be provided with a trauma form to document such problems. The Task Force is consolidating all the information into a presentation they want to give to AMOC. In reference to SOP 13.0, the Task Force recommends there be two separate SOPs: one for human health and safety and one for depredations.

Action Item: AMOC will await contact from the Task Force before addressing this issue.

9. Progress on 5-Year Review Recommendations (5YRR)

a. Report regarding recommended law enforcement actions (5YRR 22)

John Morgart provided a progress update on the report regarding recommended law enforcement action (5YRR 22). Emails to law enforcement personnel have been sent out but no response has been received. No public report will be made on this item.

b. Final discussion of USFWS Recovery Protocol for Pre-Release Facility Husbandry and Operations (5YRR 27)

Comments were received from AMOC, and the document is ready to be finalized.

c. Identification of IFT training needs (5YRR 28)

Identification of IFT training needs was discussed. Questions were asked about training for volunteers and whether volunteers are being used effectively. Addition of a paragraph to explain training activities for the IFT and volunteers was recommended. Additionally, WMAT sensitivity training was suggested to be added to the document.

Action Item: By January 31, AMOC members will provide comment to Santiago Gonzales on the draft training needs summary. Santiago and the IFT will then discuss the comments and make appropriate revisions in the document, before it is finalized at the end of February.

d. 5YRRs related to interdiction, incentives, and compensation

Ben Tuggle's presentation on Interdiction/Incentives/Compensation needs to be given to WMAT and SCAT.

Action Item: John Morgart will check Ben's schedule and coordinate with WMAT and SCAT. Anna Tryfonas will check the March 6 SCAT agenda and Cynthia Dale will see if she can get Ben Tuggle on the March 7 SCAT Tribal Council agenda. Steve Titla will check with the SCAT Cattle Association and see when they would be available to hear the presentation

e. NEPA and rulemaking (10j) issues

Failure to get NEPA and rulemaking up and moving is probably the biggest problem AMOC is facing. The 5YR was completed a year ago. Discussion ensued on where the scoping process is, along with needs for funding, personnel, and resources. The initial needs are to craft a scoping letter and to let the public know when and where the scoping meetings will be held. USFS might be able to assist with the personnel issue and USFWS has money to cover the scoping process. A game plan needs to be devised.

Action Item: by February 9, Santiago and Morgart will put together a package asking cooperating agencies for their desired level of participation in the scoping process. Scoping must be underway by the April AMOC meeting.

f. All other 5YRRs

AMOC agreed to report the progress of the 37 Recommendations on the web site. Position titles should replace names in all documents.

Action Item: AMOC members will provide changes in the 37 Recommendations tracking document to Terry Johnson by February 9, for web site posting and ongoing monitoring.

10. Miscellaneous IFT activities and issues

a. Staffing issues (hiring, etc.)

AGFD reported that its IFT Leader position closed on January 5. They will review the applicants the following week. Out of 35 applications, 17 met the minimum requirements for the position. The NMDGF position has been filled and the individual will be based in Apache Creek. Saleen Richter's position cannot be posted until she provides a letter of resignation. Wildlife Services has the money to fill the open position in Catron County, NM. Wildlife Services reported a Continuing Resolution might remove Congressional directives for two wolf positions.

b. Communication plan cost estimate

Needs relating to the communication plan cost estimate were identified. Specific agency designation for purchase or funding of items was identified as an item of concern. Purchase of satellite phones, additional cell phones, pagers, funding of repeater installations and who will pay for them was discussed.

Action Item: The IFT will revise the communication plan, better define actual needs (equipment and cost), so AMOC can make a decision on implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

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January 27, 2007 – 8:00am

Cathy Taylor present (replacing Bobbie Barrera), as well as John Morgart, Santiago Gonzales, Hector Reudas, John Oakleaf, Lisa Kirkpatrick, Anna Tryfonas, Cynthia Dale, Dan Groebner, Shawna Nelson, Bill Van Pelt, Terry Johnson and Steve Titla. Chris Carillo absent and not replaced.

The meeting was resumed with a report on the revised Location Dissemination SOP that Terry Johnson redrafted last night. Substantial changes were made to the content and wording will be revised when it is sent out. The Monthly Map will be retained with effort

to streamline the time it takes to produce the map. The black and white version of the map will be eliminated.

Action Item: Terry Johnson will finalize, disseminate, and post SOP 26.0.

c. Translocations and initial releases

A question arose as to the recommendations for translocations and initial releases. The recommendations were sent in prior to the Directors Summit in December. The IFT has now withdrawn its initial release proposal, based on the end-of-year count of seven confirmed breeding pairs.

Action Item: The translocation proposal that was submitted will go forward as is. The initial release pairs will be broken up this week, but the translocation pair will be left intact.

d. End-of-year count results for 2006

The results for 2006 were presented. Generally, the operation went well. Five wolves were caught and processed during the operation. A fifth day of flying was added specifically for the Aspen male. For the operation, 43 landowners were contacted for focusing search efforts.

e. Initial discussion of IFT delineation of changes in approach for the 2007 count

Dan Groebner provided a synopsis on changes in approach for the 2007 count proposed by the IFT and will send it out for edits. The IFT recommends that the end-of-year count be moved to February. This is based on February being the month with the least observed mortality and the least change in the population. This approach would not affect the December 31 date for breeding pair determination. Additionally, the public will be more involved in the process by using volunteers, under direct supervision of the IFT, in driving roads and looking for wolves. Another item would be to provide for a mid-summer population estimate.

Action Item: Comments on the changes are due from all AMOC members to Terry Johnson by February 23.

f. Depredation and nuisance responses in 4th quarter 2006

Depredations and nuisance behavior from October through December were reviewed.

- g. Other field activities

TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION.

- h. Progress on developing FAQs (e.g. carcass issues) for web posting

Ten to 15 items will be lifted directly from the 5-Year Review to serve as FAQs for posting on the web site. One will be the NM horse/Aspen Pack issue. A list of potential FAQ's was passed out.

Action Item: (a) Shawna Nelson will provide a first draft of the Aspen Pack FAQ to AMOC by February 9. (b) Shawna Nelson will provide electronic copy of the potential FAQ list to Terry Johnson; AMOC member comment on the list of potential FAQs is due to Shawna by February 23.

- i. Progress on and timeline for 2006 Annual Report

Action Item: The IFT draft of the 2006 Annual Report is due to AMOC on March 1.

- j. Progress on AGFD wolf web site conversion

A place for AMOC to park draft documents on the website will be provided. A section for the NEPA process, including notices and discussion documents needs to be developed. A section for publications with hyperlinks and a search engine needs to be developed. Links to the USFWS endangered species web site need to be established. Shawna Nelson and Bruce Sitko are working on the web site.

Action Item: AMOC member comment on the web site should be sent to Shawna Nelson, on an ongoing basis. Bruce Sitko and Shawna Nelson, with help from Terry Johnson, will continue working on web site renovation, for completion before the next AMOC meeting.

- k. Miscellaneous
 - i. Database

NMDGF has the lead in developing the database.

Action Item: Dan Groebner will develop a presentation for the next AMOC meeting on how the database operates.

- ii. Brochure

Action Item: (a) Brochure corrections are due to Shawna Nelson by February 23. (b) USFWS will send a PDF version of the brochure to Terry Johnson.

11. **TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION**

TRIBAL INFORMATION REDACTION

12. Update on timeline for and completion of Recovery Program Annual Report for 2006

The Recovery Program Annual Report for 2006 has been completed.

Action Item: John Morgart will get final copy to Terry Johnson for web site posting prior to the next AMOC meeting.

13. Discussion of AMOC and IFT roles and functions

This item was deferred, due to lack of time.

14. Other business

None.

15. Schedule and locations of 2007 AMOC and AMWG meetings

The 2007 schedule was reaffirmed. Terry Johnson has secured meeting rooms for the April, July, and October AMOC and AMWG sessions, and John Morgart has covered the December sessions.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am, to prepare the room for the day's AMWG meeting.